

the *epimera*, and the structure of the terminal buckler of the body; but it is essentially distinguished from *Serolis* by the considerable development and evident mobility of the first rings of the abdomen, a character which connects it with the *Ægæ* and other erratic *Cymothoidæ*. The several segments comprised between the head and the caudal buckler scarcely differ among themselves, so that there is no visible limit between the thorax and the abdomen; but they are twelve in number, and as the thoracic segments never exceed seven throughout the division of *Edriophthalmia*, we must conclude that the five hindmost ones belong to the abdominal portion of the body, which would consequently consist of six moveable segments, as in the genera *Ægæ*, *Nelocira*, &c. The sixth segment of the abdomen, which composes the terminal buckler already mentioned, is almost semicircular, and exhibits in its medial and anterior portion a tubercular swelling somewhat analogous to that observed in the same part in various *Sphæromatidæ*. It appears to me also that the margin of this piece is notched laterally to give insertion to an appendical portion placed in the same manner as in *Serolis*. We may also infer, from the arrangement of the lateral pieces of the other abdominal and thoracic segments, that the animal possessed the power of rolling itself into a ball like the *Sphæromatidæ*. Lastly, the structure of the head appears intermediate between that of the last-mentioned Crustaceans and that which is exemplified in *Serolis*, for the cephalic segment is widened like that of *Serolis*.

From the facts thus indicated it appears that this fossil Crustacean is probably distinct from all Isopods hitherto known, and ought to be classed in a separate generic division. I propose then to designate it by the name of *Archæoniscus Brodii*.

[The memoir then proceeds to describe a second species of fossil Isopod, found in the neighbourhood of Paris, and denominated by the author *Palæoniscus Brongniartii*.]

XVII.—*Notice of the Blind Fish, Cray-fish, and Insects from the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky*.*

At a meeting of the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society, January 17, 1844, Mr. Thompson, the President, called attention to specimens of the Blind Fish, Cray-fish, and Locusts from the great Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, procured in the month of May last specially for the Society by the kind attention of our townsman Gordon A. Thomson, Esq. on his visit to the cave. They are perhaps the first examples of their respective species brought thence to Europe.

* Communicated by Mr. Thompson.

The cave itself is popularly known from having been described in Chambers's Edinburgh Journal for 1838, vol. vi. p. 234; and more recently, at least in this town, from a letter by the Rev. Wm. Murphy, St. Mary's College, Kentucky, published in the Belfast Commercial Chronicle of January 1, 1844, where it occupies two columns, but the source whence it was obtained is not acknowledged. The Blind Fish is described in Silliman's American Philosophical Journal for August last*, and the article was republished verbatim in the 'Annals of Natural History' for October 1843. It is therefore unnecessary to do more than refer to the description, with the exception of a few remarks made by the donor. He obtained these specimens of the fish, the largest of which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and according to the guide—perhaps not the least interested authority—the largest taken down to that time. The hearing of the fish is very acute, so that it is with great difficulty captured. Being of a whitish yellow, or cream-colour, it is very conspicuous in the water. When taken, and viewed closely, it is somewhat transparent, like china-ware, so that the intestines, &c. can be distinctly seen. Our donor is not aware of the fish having been tried as food:—at the price of a dollar each they are sold at the entrance to the cave. One interesting fact in the economy of the species, unnoticed in the description alluded to, is perhaps new, namely, that it is viviparous. The largest specimen on being captured was placed in water, where it gave birth to nearly twenty young, which swam about for some time, but soon died. These, with the exception of one or two, were carefully preserved, and fifteen of them are now before us: they are each 4 lines in length.

The Cray-fish and "Crickets" are stated in the letter already noticed to be blind, but this is erroneous. Both species have eyes. Our specimen of the cray-fish wants both the claws, but is otherwise perfect, and agrees with the description of the *Astacus Bartoni*, Fabr., given in Milne-Edwards's 'Histoire des Crustacés,' vol. ii. p. 331. The length there attributed to the species is 3 inches: the specimen before us is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length from the point of the rostrum to the extremity of the caudal plates. The *A. Bartoni* is said to inhabit the river Delaware and other parts of North America.

Of the Insects, which are doubtless the same as those called "crickets" (though not properly so) in the published letter, several were captured by our donor seven miles from the entrance of the cave—the fish was taken four miles within it. They be-

* The fish is here stated to correspond "for the most part with the description of the *Amblyopsis spelæus*, described by Dr. Dekay in the 'Fauna of New York,' but in some particulars it differs." Mr. Thompson stated that he had not the opportunity of referring to this work.

long to the genus *Phalangopsis* of Audinet Serville, and come near to the *Phalangopsis longipes* of that author, described and figured in his 'Histoire Naturelle des Orthoptères' (Suites à Buffon), p. 369. pl. 12. f. 1, and like to it are all—both males and females—in the larva state. The length of their body is 9 lines; of their antennæ 4 inches: the legs in proportion to the body are similar in length to those of *L. longipes* as figured in the work quoted. A mere general idea of these insects is here sought to be conveyed, as it is due to the American naturalist to leave to him the describing and naming of the species.

XVIII.—*Further notice of the Species of Birds occurring in the vicinity of Calcutta.* By EDWARD BLYTH, Curator to the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

THE 'Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist.' for August and September last have just come to hand, comprising my catalogue of birds procured in the neighbourhood of Calcutta up to the close of the preceding cold season, with addenda to June 7th; from that time to the recent commencement of the present cold season, little worthy of notice in the ornithological line has occurred to me, at least in the way of recent specimens; but the now opening campaign of 1843-44 has begun very favorably, for during the last week alone I obtained several capital specimens, including some additional *Raptores*, as *Falco vespertinus*, *Aquila pennata*, and *Limnaëtus hastatus*, besides others of rare occurrence. I shall now proceed to look over and remark upon the list published, and will revert to the subject at the period of the departure of the mail, when any additional species which I may have procured by that time shall meet with notice.

No. 6 a. *Falco vespertinus*, vel *rufipes*; *F. subbuteo*, var. A, Latham, Gen. Hist. i. 121. The Society has skins of this species obtained in the vicinity, besides the fine specimen just procured here, as already noticed; and I have received examples from Nepal and one from the Neelgherries.

14. Specimens of *Circus rufus*, vel *æruuginosus*, in the state of plumage figured by Mr. Gould in his 'Birds of Europe' as that of the old male, with ash-coloured wings and tail, are not uncommon. Many think them distinct, and, as such, they have been described as *Circus pectoralis*, Vieillot, and *C. variegatus*, Sykes.

15. Genus *Spilornis*, G. R. Gray.

16 a. *Aquila pennata*; *Spizaëtus milvoides*, Jerdon, Madras Journ. No. xxiv. 75.

N.B. Of the modern genus *Aquila*, the following species inhabit India:—

1. *A. chrysaëtos*. Mr. Hodgson has sent a specimen of this bird from Nepal.

Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. Vol. xiii.